(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Work of construction of a major bridge on Bagh river has been taken up. The blocking of line between Gondia-Balaghat will be considered after completion of this bridge and as per the operational requirement.

(0 The work is in progress between Gondia and Balaghat. Works which can be done without blocking the line have been taken up. Final Location Survey for Jabalpur-Balaghat has been completed recently. Land acquisition for detoured alignment near Jabalpur has also been processed.

Committee on rail safety

757. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Justice H.L. Khanna Committee which was appointed by Government to look into the issue of rail safety, was highly critical of the glaring neglect of safety-related issues, particularly on the state of bridges and track maintenance;

(b) if so, what arc the salient feature of the report and the number of bridges identified by it to be of unusable age: and

(c) how many of them have since been replaced or repaired so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Railway Safety Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna recommended liquidation of arrears of track renewals in 7 years with one time grant from Central Government and carrying out work of rehabilitation/reconstruction of bridges in need of such work in 5 years.

The Committee also recommended that within 1 year all bridges that are today declared as 'distressed' and others over 100 years in age or of early steel, should be subjected to a super check by a task force and rehabilitation of distressed bridges should be completed in a time span of 5 years alongwith fresh accruals. Committee has not identified any bridge as of unusable age.